## APRN Compact Moving Forward

Currently Iowa does not recognize the title Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), but for purposes of this document regarding the APRN Compact the title APRN will be used throughout this article.

In 2002, the first APRN Compact was adopted by three states (Texas, Utah and Iowa). However, this version of the APRN Compact was not implemented, partially due to the lack of uniformity of APRN licensure requirements between states. Following the adoption of the APRN Consensus Model in 2008, the three compact states identified an opportunity to address the lack of uniformity and create a new version of the compact which incorporated the APRN Consensus Model. The APRN Consensus Model provides clarity and uniformity for the APRN role, population foci, specialty areas, scope of practice, and educational requirements.

In 2011, the APRN Compact Work Group formed and drafted the new APRN Compact. The APRN Compact was approved by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing's (NCSBN) membership in May of 2015.

The following statements are common to both the "Enhanced" Nurse Licensure Compact and the APRN Compact:

- 1. Uniform licensure requirements (ULRs) for all states, as defined in rule.
- 2. The practice of nursing takes place in the state where the patient resides.
- 3. Nurses have ability to practice in multiple states with one license.
- 4. The Compact will:
  - a. Reduce regulatory requirements by eliminating the necessity to obtain a license in each state.
  - b. Increase access to care while maintaining public protection.
  - c. Clarify a nurse's authority to practice in multiple states via telehealth.
  - d. Allow nurses to quickly cross state borders and provide vital services in the event of a disaster.
  - e. Remove burdensome expenses for both nurses and the organizations that employ them.

f. Provide member states the authority to facilitate a discipline case across state lines.

The general provisions specific to the APRN Compact as summarized by the NCSBN, are listed below:

- A member state must implement procedures for considering the state and federal criminal history records of applicants for initial APRN licensure or APRN licensure by endorsement.
- 2. The APRN Uniform Licensure Requirements (ULRs) adopted by the Commission provide the minimum requirements for APRN multistate licensure.
- 3. To obtain/retain a multistate license, an APRN must meet the home state's qualifications, in addition to the ULRs.
- 4. The Commission identifies in rule the approved APRN role and population foci for licensure. An APRN shall be licensed in an approved APRN role and at least one approved population focus.
- 5. An APRN multistate license is recognized as authorizing the APRN to practice in each party state under a multistate license privilege, in the same role and population focus as in the home state.
- 6. An APRN multistate license shall include prescriptive authority for non-controlled prescription drugs. An APRN shall satisfy all requirements imposed by the state for each state in which an APRN seeks authority to prescribe controlled substances.
- 7. An APRN multistate license holder is authorized to practice independent of a supervisory or collaborative relationship with a physician.
- 8. Authority to take adverse action against a multistate licensure privilege with application of state due process laws.
- 9. Nurse compliance with state practice laws.

To clarify the "Interstate Commission" is the governing body of the APRN Compact. This term is commonly used by other Interstate Compact governing bodies. The Commission will have the authority for rulemaking. The rules will specifically outline the ULRs and address the key components of the Consensus Model.

To be adopted, the APRN Compact will require legislative action. It is the intent of the Iowa Board of Nursing to introduce APRN Compact language for the 2017 legislative session. The APRN Compact will be implemented once 10 states have adopted the Compact. Idaho and Wyoming adopted the APRN Compact in 2016.

Visit our website, <a href="https://nursing.iowa.gov">https://nursing.iowa.gov</a> and NCSBN's website <a href="https://nursing.iowa.gov">www.aprncompact.com</a> to learn more about the APRN Compact.

Keep the momentum going and support the APRN Compact for Iowa.